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A Neighborhood Team Approach to Strengthening University-Neighborhood Relations

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A Neighborhood Team Approach to Strengthening University-Neighborhood Relations

Abstract

At an urban university like Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), people and programs often blend into the cultural fabric of its surrounding neighborhoods. Opportunities and challenges inevitably arise. How can a university partner with contiguous communities to develop mutually-beneficial relationships? This presentation describes how a neighborhood outreach director works closely with neighborhoods, a neighborhood liaison group, university police and the City of Richmond. Learn how various university units came together to form the VCU Neighborhood Team.

Keywords

neighborhood, university, community engagement, higher education, urban universities

Disciplines

Higher Education



A Neighborhood Team Approach to Strengthening University-Neighborhood Relations

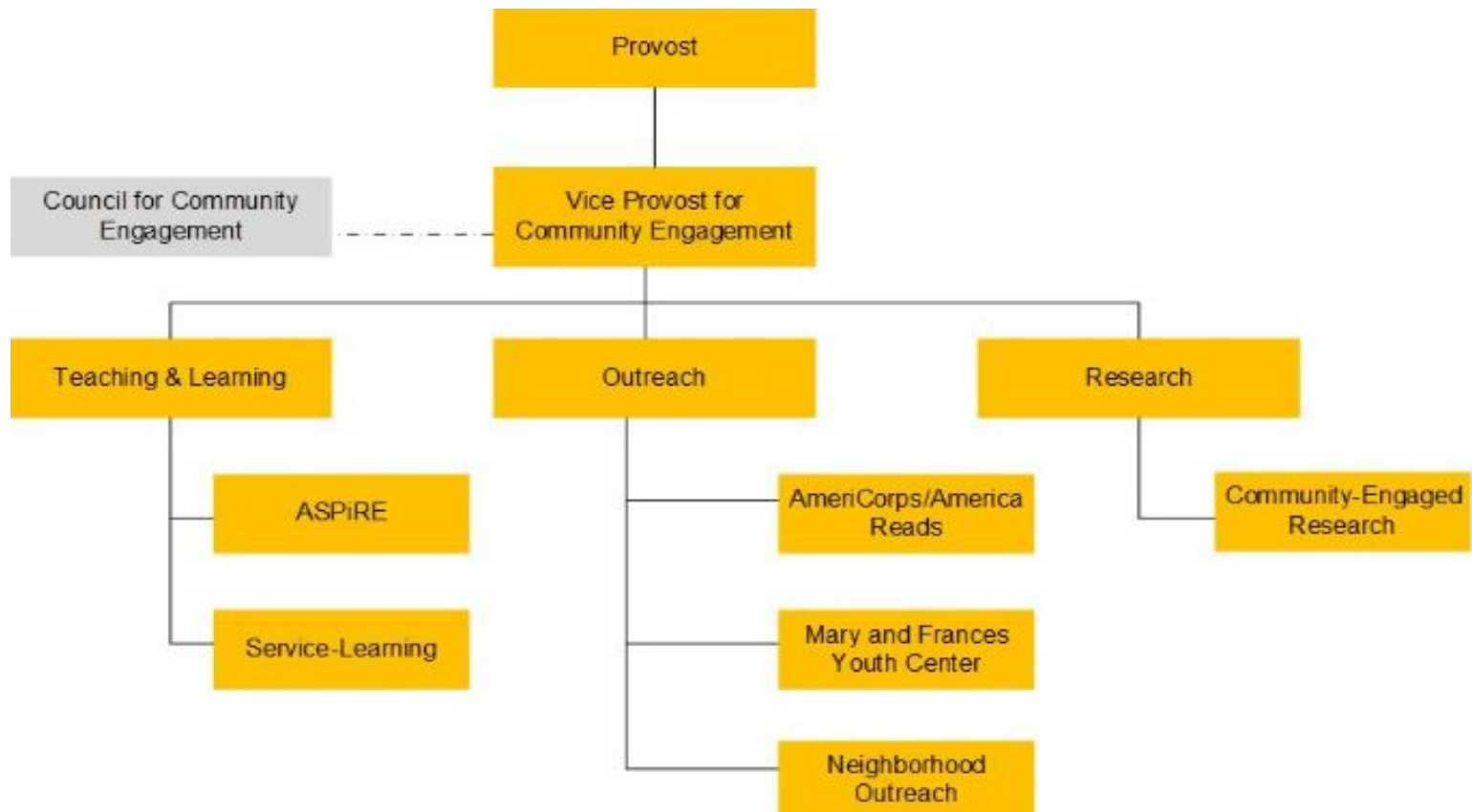
Tito A. Luna
April 14, 2016

About VCU

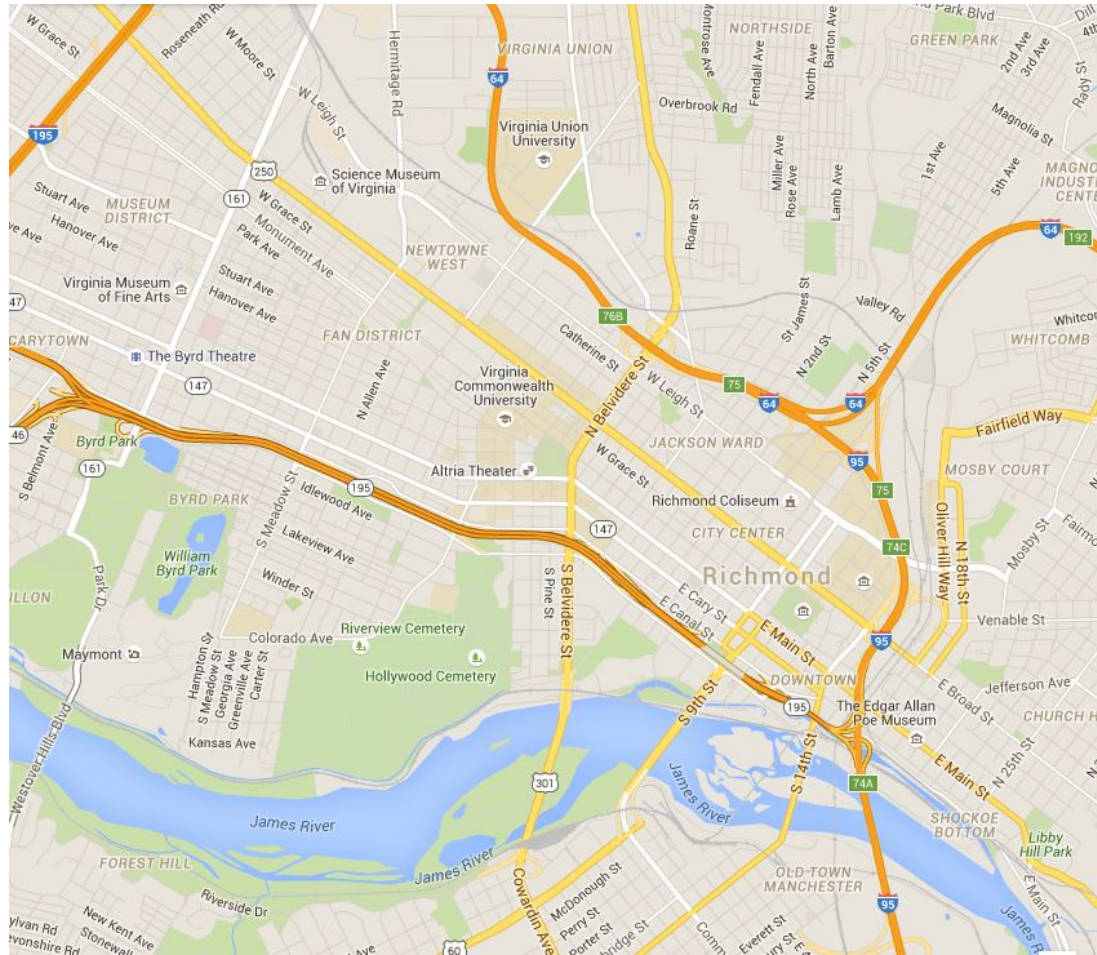
- Premier urban, public research university
- Located in Richmond, VA
- Established in 1838
- 31,288 students
- #1 public graduate arts program in the country
- #1 hospital in Virginia
- \$270 million in sponsored research



Division of Community Engagement



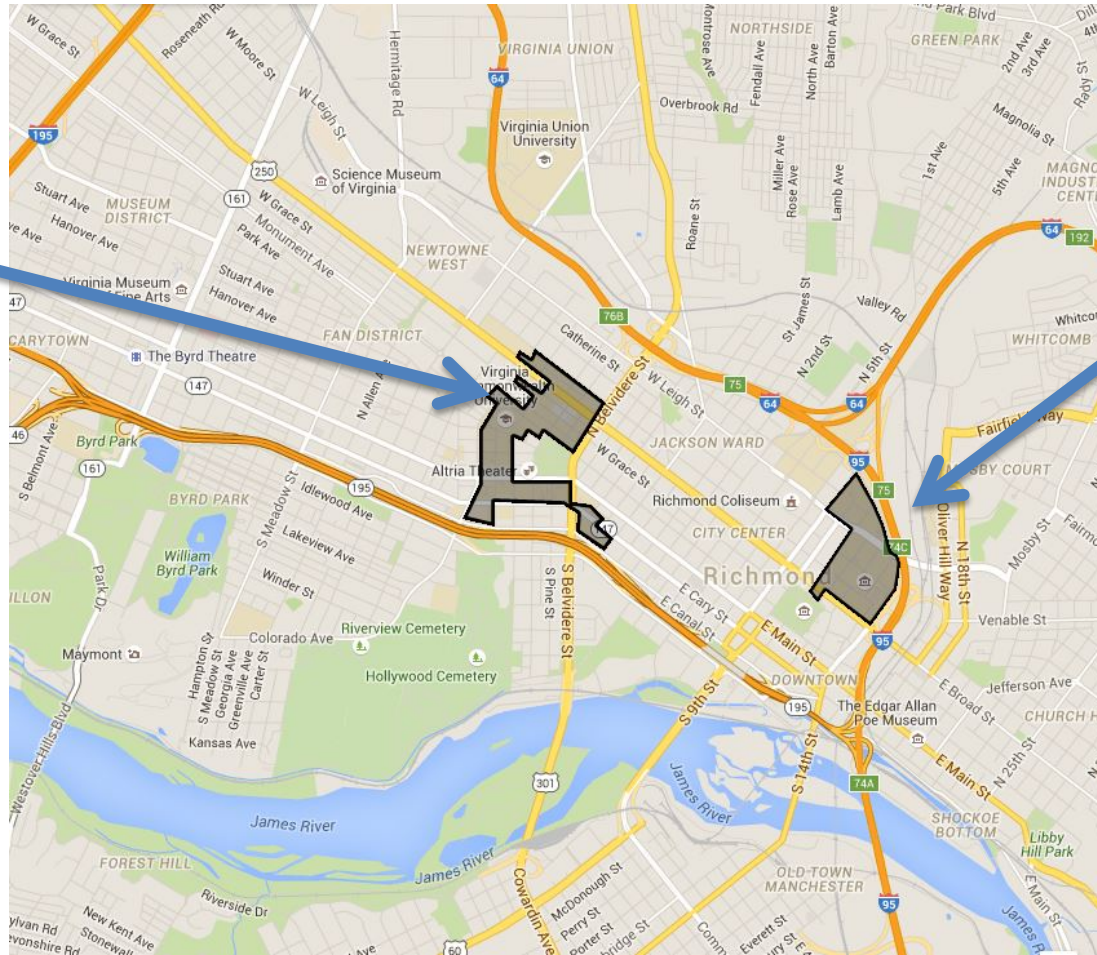
Downtown Richmond, VA



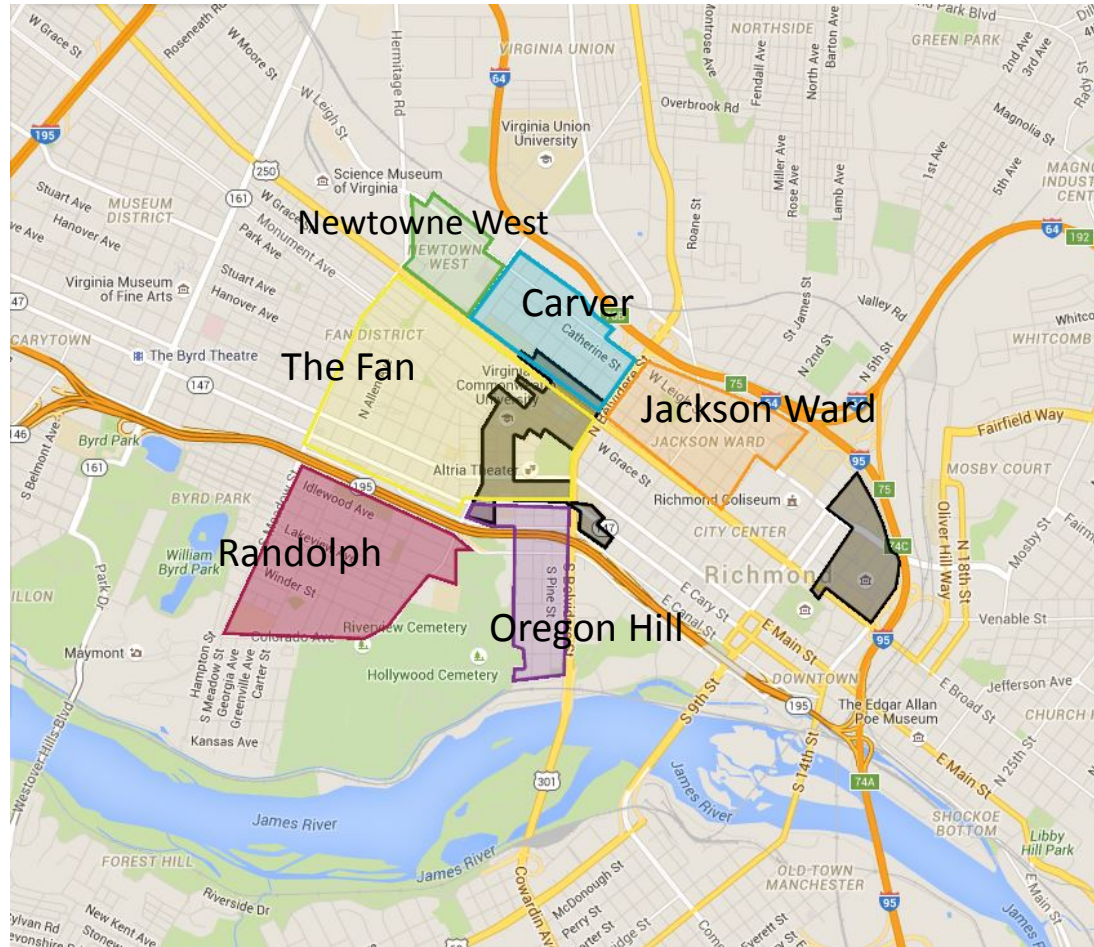
VCU Campuses

Monroe
Park
Campus

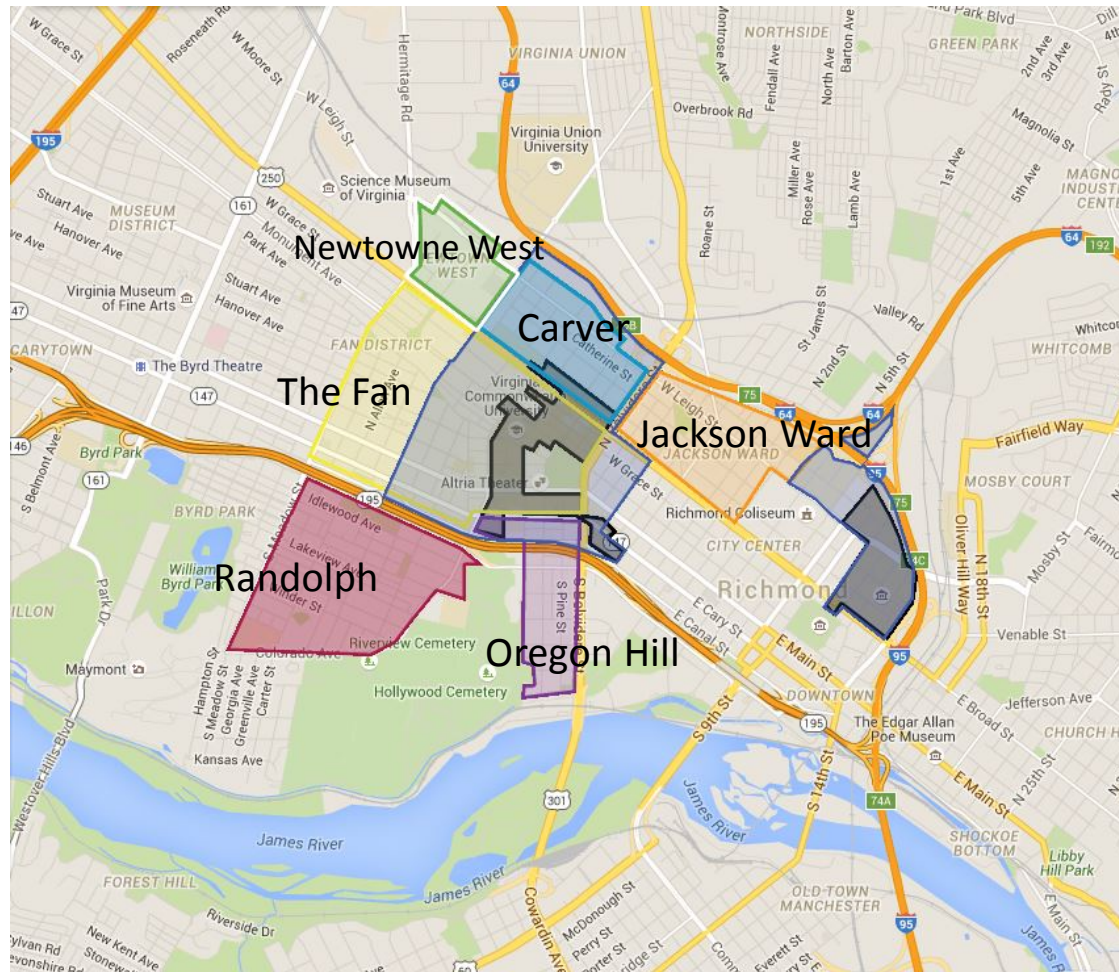
MCV
Campus



Surrounding Neighborhoods

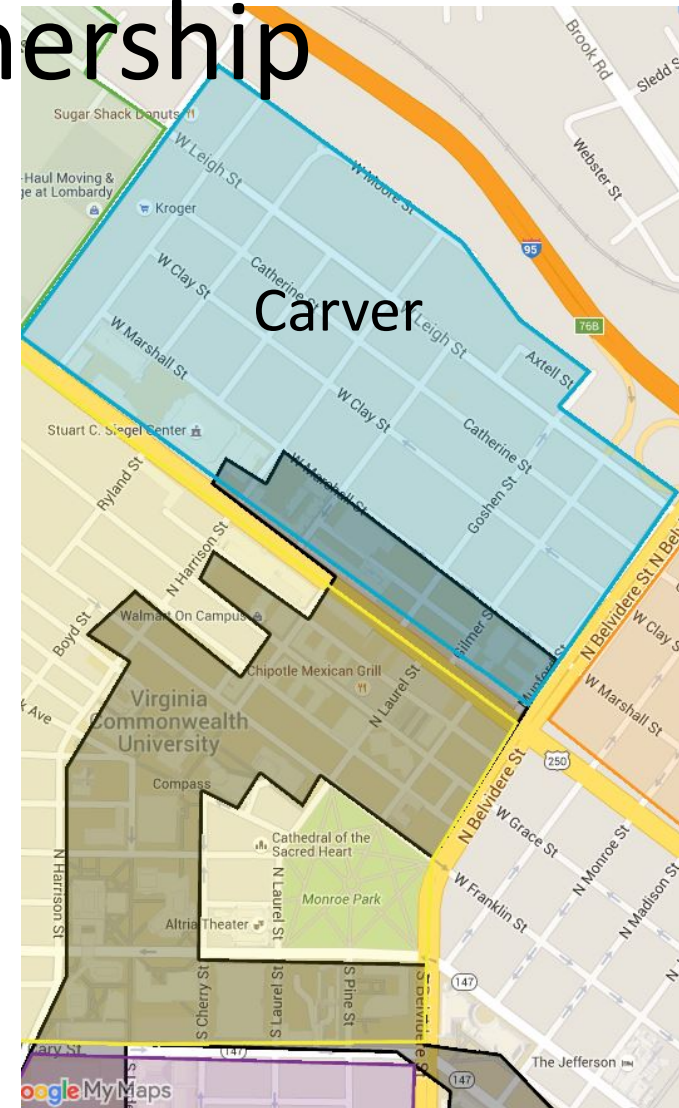


VCU Police Extended Jurisdiction



Carver-VCU Partnership

- Formed in 1996
- Structure
- Goals
 - Community development
 - Youth development
 - Health and wellness programs



Community Development

- Master Plan
- Sheep Hill Memories, Carver Dreams
- Community Programs Space
- Leadership Training (CACIL)



Youth Development

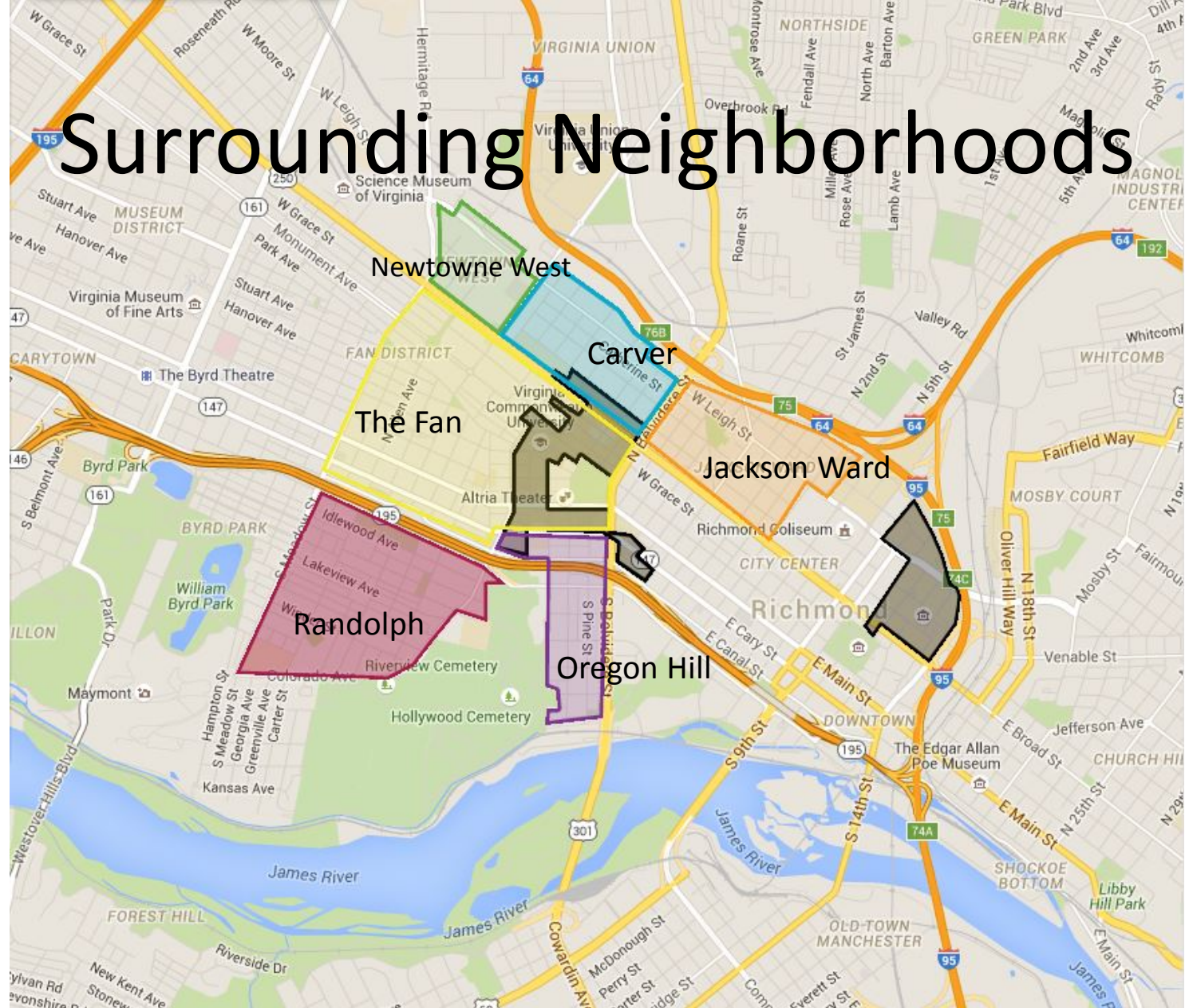
- After-school program
- VCU AmeriCorps and America Reads
- G.W. Carver Elementary School
 - Carver Promise mentoring program
 - Service learning students
 - Carver Health Project

Health & Safety

- Fitness facility access
- Annual health fairs
- Police jurisdiction expansion



Surrounding Neighborhoods



Neighborhood Outreach Director

- Primary liaison between VCU and its neighbors
- Attends neighborhood association meetings
- Leverages VCU resources
 - Work study
 - Service hours (employee and student)
 - Graduate internships
- Develops collaborative initiatives

Neighborhood Outreach Director

- Facilitates inclusion in major capital decisions



Collaborative Initiatives

- Neighborhood Liaisons
- Paint the Town Green
- Project Clean & Green Move
- Neighborhood Team

Collaborative Initiatives

- Paint the Town Green



Collaborative Initiatives

- Paint the Town Green



Collaborative Initiatives

- Paint the Town Green



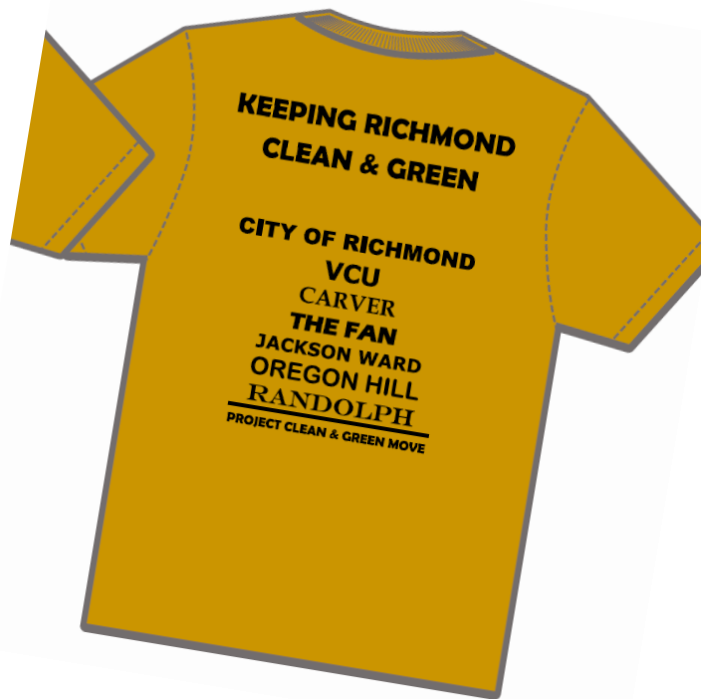
Collaborative Initiatives

- Project Clean & Green Move

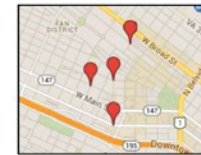


Collaborative Initiatives

- Project Clean & Green Move



Project Clean & Green Move is being implemented where many VCU students live: Carver, Jackson Ward, Oregon Hill, Randolph and the Fan. The City of Richmond Dept. of Public Works, Virginia Commonwealth University and area civic associations are working together to keep VCU's neighboring communities clean and green when residents move out/in from May - August. Here's how you can help keep our neighborhoods clean and green!



Ryland & Grace, Morris & Grove,
Morris & Cary, Floyd & Plum

Use Our Dumpsters!

Four dumpsters are available for residential use near VCU from April 25—May 26 and again from July 26—September 3.



Click on the map for locations!

Neighborhood Cleanups

8 AM—12 PM on these Saturdays:

May 31
June 28
August 2
August 23

In addition to trash cleanups, volunteers will load reusable items on these days to give to nonprofits.

On August 1-2 from 9 AM - 3PM, a Goodwill truck will be stationed on the corner of Morris St. & Grove Ave.

How to help

- Volunteer to help load trash and sort re-usable items in all five neighborhoods. We also need cleanup leaders! Email: neighbors@vcu.edu.
- Separate your trash and reusable items and leave them out before 8 AM on these Saturdays

Donation Resources

	Appliances Large	Appliances Small	Books	Clothing	Computers	Electronics	Furniture	Household Items	Mattresses
Caritas , 343-5008						•	•	•	•
Diversity Thrift , 353-8890		•	•	•		•	•	•	
Fan Tastic Thrift, 358-7164		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Goodwill , 254-7623		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Habitat for Humanity , 232-7001	•	•					•	•	
Salvation Army , 359-5554	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Vietnam Veterans of America			•	•		•		•	

For large items that are not suitable for donation, call 311 and request a **BULK PICKUP**

If moving out before these days, you can still help RVA's nonprofits by donating your **lightly used** items—and get a tax deduction!*
Call or visit their websites for more information. Some will even pick up your items for free!

*as allowable by the IRS

Collaborative Initiatives

- Project Clean & Green Move



Collaborative Initiatives

- Neighborhood Team
 - Several VCU units
 - Meet quarterly
 - Neighborhood liaisons attend once per semester
 - Discuss issues of common concern
 - Monroe Park Campus Neighborhood Forum

Collaborative Initiatives

- Neighborhood Team
 - Role of VCU Police
 - External relations officer Greg Felton



Collaborative Initiatives

- VCU Police
 - Noise suppression van
 - PrtySmrt
 - LiveSafe



Future Goals

- More faculty / staff involvement
 - Community service leave
 - G.W. Carver Elementary School
- Neighborhood leadership program
- Neighborhood assessments and planning
 - Include evaluation of VCU as a neighbor

Contact Information

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